

Letter Bk. V Bill for restraining all Beneficed Clergy here from being absent more than two Months in a year out of their respective Parishes & for authorizing the Governor together with such three Clergymen & three Laymen as he may from time to time choose or appoint to exercise a Kind of Visitorial Jurisdiction over such Minister as may be accused of any notorious & scandalous Behaviour, but if such a Bill should be framed & pass the two Houses I shall for my part decline assenting thereto till I can know His Ldp's pleasure tho indeed the Expediency of some Restraint on the Clergy cannot be denied.

Letter Bk.III

[Sharpe to Hillsborough.]

To Lord Hillsborough.

Annapolis 16 June 1768

My Ld

I am now to acknowledge the Receipt of your Ldp's Letter bearing Date the 5th of March last together with a Copy inclosed therein of a Report made the 25 June 1767 to the Lds Commissioners for Trade & Plantations by His Majestys Attorney & Solicitor General upon an Act pass't in the Colony of New Jersey in June 1766; which Report I have caused to be recorded so that it might be known in the Province to be Their opinion that the Act of the 12th of Queen Anne Statute 2^d Cap 16 is in force in His Majestys Colonies & Plantations in America & that so much of the Act of the 4th of George the 1st Cap 12th as declare the 12th of Queen Anne to be perpetual extends to America & your Ldp may be assured that due Regard will be by me paid to such opinion of His Majestys Attorney & Solicitor Gen^l

Original.

[Rev. Bennet Allen to Sharpe.]

June 21. 1768

Sir

I waited upon your Excellency upon information of a Bill passing the lower house to establish an Ecclesiastical Commission: As I do apprehend such a Commission to be not only directly contrary to Act of Parliament, but a direct infringement of his Lordship's Rights as supreme ordinary over the church, from whom alone by Letters patents any Person can exercise any kind of Jurisdiction within this Province, & which is moreover a direct attack upon the Liberties & Properties of the Clergy, not only as Subject to a distinct & separate Jurisdiction, but which will reduce them below the wretched State & Dependance of their Honour's Slaves, I hope, in the name of the Clergy (some of whose opinions I